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	MAY 20 1947		328		Stalin Canal
CIA NO.	AND SOURCE SUMMARY OF SOVIET PRESS				
MAJOR PRODUCT	10 12				

The Vakhsh Valley (Tadzhikistan).

The Soviet have brought fertility to a dry area by irrigation.

Thousands of workers, during the Five-Year Plans, have built the Vakhsh "Stalin" Canal. The waters of the R. Vakhsh have been directed into canals and irrigation channels.

600,000 cub. metres of water are received daily by the main canal construction.

The Vakhsh oblast receives tractors, agricultural machines, fuel, tea, textile materials and consumer goods, and supplies astrakhan wool, wool, fruit, rose etherbearing oil, silk, horses, and above all cotton.

The main problem is population. The transferring of whole collective farms from the mountains of the Pamir has been resumed. (Some inhabitants were taken from the Garm oblast nine years ago). These transfers are being done by passenger-freight and freight aircraft. Houses and buildings are ready for the people on arrival. State loans and credits are available for the farmers.

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SUMMARY OF SOVIET PRESS

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The collective farmers of the valley have been given the task of growing long-fibre Egyptian cotton.

The people are working well here and being well repaid for their efforts. One may see in each house good furniture, a wireless set and books. There is a 10-year school and a cinema.

There is a zonal botanical station at Vakhsh, which tests everything before the farmers plant it. The testing of the batat (the potato of warm climates) has been completed; a harvest of 125 tons was obtained from one hectare. It is suitable food for man and cattle.

Sov. Estonia 17 May 47